



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

COVER SHEET

**Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Resource Management Plan Draft
Environmental Impact Statement**

Responsible Agencies: National Marine Fisheries Service (NEPA Lead Agency) with assistance from the Puget Sound Treaty Indian Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Type of Statement: Final Environmental Impact Statement

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Abstract:

The Proposed Action is implementation of the Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Resource Management Plan (RMP), jointly-developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Puget Sound treaty tribes under Limit 6 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) 4(d) Rule, for the 2005-2009 fishing years. The RMP would regulate commercial, recreational, ceremonial, and subsistence salmon fisheries potentially affecting the listed Puget Sound Chinook Evolutionarily Significant Unit within the marine and freshwater areas of Puget Sound. Harvest objectives specified in the RMP account for fisheries-related mortality of Puget Sound chinook salmon throughout the migratory range of this species - from Oregon and Washington to Southeast Alaska. The RMP also includes implementation, monitoring, and evaluation procedures designed to ensure fisheries are consistent with the RMP's objectives for conservation and use. Fishery activities under the RMP would affect the listed Puget Sound Chinook and Hood Canal Summer-run Chum Evolutionarily Significant Units. The Environmental Impact Statement examines the effects of the Proposed Action and three alternatives on a range of issues including fish species, economics, federal treaty trust responsibilities, subsistence and wildlife. The National Marine Fisheries Service has identified the Proposed Action as its preferred alternative because the agency believes that this alternative would be most successful at balancing resource conservation, trust obligations to Native American tribes, promotion of sustainable fisheries, and prevention of lost economic potential associated with overfishing, declining species and degraded habitats.

Comments must be received by:

5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2005



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